Power Cut in Orissa

1429. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale ower cuts imppored in Orissa:

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Power cuts and peak period restrictions are imposed to contain the demand for power within the availability. The power cuts in force on industries in Orissa are as under:

Category of consumers	Demanad Energy Cut
(i) Heavy industries and private power intensive industries	75%
(ii) Large industries with contract demand more than 1.5 MW	50%
(iii) State Govt., Public Uudertaking & 100% export oriented power intensive industries.	30%
(iv) All categories of Industries	Peak period restriction
(v) Agriculture	No restriction

However, industries in Orissa are permitted to draw additional power to the extent assistance is available to Orissa from outside resource|neighbouring States.

(c) In order to improve the availability of power in the States, various measures are being taken which include expediting commissioning of new capacities, optimum utilisation of existing capacities, reduction in transmission and ditribution losses. In addition, Orissa is also entitled to its share from the Central Generating Stations in the Region. Assistance is also provided to Orissa from the neighbouring States|systems to the extent possible.

Financial assistance by Central Government for Bio-Gas Development

1430. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been providing financial assistance to the State Government for the development of bio--gas;

(b) if so, what is the amount of Central assistance given to the Orissa for the development of bio-gas during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the steps taken in Orissa to popularise bio-gas during this year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes. Sir. The National Project for Biogas Development, which caters to family type biogas plants, provides for Central subsidy, turn-key job fee, service charges, repair and maintenance charges, promotional cash incentives, organisation of various kinds of training courses and field demontrations on utility of manure, establishment of Regional Biogas Training and Development Centres, award of prizes, etc.

(b) The State Government of Orissa has been sanctioned about Rs. 5.33 crores during the last three years, i.e. 1986-87 to 1988-89 for various items covered under the National Project for Biogas Development. Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission has

also been implementing the project for which funds have been released separately.

(c) A target of setting up of 3000 family type biogas plants has been fixed for the State of Orissa for 1990-91. With a view to popularising biogas plants in the State of Orissa, special steps taken are involvement of voluntary agencies in construction of biogas plants on turn-key basis-with two years free maintenance warranty; organisation of one-day training courses in operation and maintenance of biogas plants for users, particularly women; training of masons in flawless construction of cheaper and new modal of biogas plants and organisation of demonstration on utility of manure in farmers' fields.

Power Projects During Eighth Plan

1431. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any major power projects are proposed to be taken up during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised and details would be known only after the Plan is finalised.

Requirement of coal and lignite during the Eighth Plan

1432. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed country's coal and lignite requirements during the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether there was any shortage of these elements during the Seventh Plan period and whether this shortage is likely to continue during the Eighth plan period also; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of coal and lignite industries is yet to be finalised.

Import of Coal

1433. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue imports of coal;

(b) if so, how much and the cost thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to evolve suitable utilisation of coal through blending, washing etc., to stop its import;

(d) what is the proposed amount of investment in this regard during the Eighth plan and how does it compare with that in the Seventh plan; and

(e) whether the investments made so far have been properly utilised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1990-91, it is tentatively proposed to import 5.30 million tonnes of coking coal of CIF value Rs. 603.67 crores at current prices for use in Integrated Steel Plants.

(c) and (d) With a view to reduce the ash percentage of coal for supply to steel plants, the coal companies have already taken up modernisation of washeries at an estimated cost of Rs. 132 crores to be completed by 1992-93.